

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PDIP, PORG, SY, US

SUBJECT: SECURITY OF SYRIAN UN MISSION

REF: A) USUN 2188; B) DAMASCUS 3968; C) DAMASCUS 5033

1. ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIALS IN DAMASCUS AND NEW YORK THAT, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INCREASED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR THE SYRIAN UN MISSION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS FULLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION AS WELL AS THE DECISION PREVIOUSLY COMMUNICATED TO THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES TO TERMINATE EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY COVERAGE BY PERSONNEL OF THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION

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SERVICE (EPS) EFFECTIVE COB MAY 31, 1977. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE DECISION SHOULD STAND. YOU SHOULD INFORM SYRIANS THAT USG TAKES SERIOUSLY ITS OBLIGATION TO PROTECT SYRIAN MISSION AND PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND KEEPS QUESTION OF THEIR SECURITY UNDER CONTINUAL REVIEW. SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK OR ELSEWHERE WARRANT REINSTITUTION OF TEMPORARY AND EXTRAORDINARY PROTECTION, USG WILL ADDRESS

THE ISSUE AT THAT TIME. SYRIAN AUTHORITIES IN NEW YORK OR DAMASCUS SHOULD OF COURSE IMMEDIATELY INFORM USG OF ANY THREAT OR UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXTRA-ORDINARY PROTECTION OF THEIR UN MISSION OR PERSONNEL.

2. IN CONVEYING THIS RESPONSE, ADDRESSEES SHOULD EMPHASIZE ONCE AGAIN TO SYRIAN AUTHORITIES THAT DECISION TO EMPLOY EPS ON TEMPORARY BASIS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON AND ON BEHALF OF CERTAIN SELECT UN MISSIONS WAS TAKEN ON EXTRAORDINARY BASIS AND FOR TEMPORARY PERIOD AND WAS BASED UPON OUR APPRECIATION OF SECURITY SITUATION AT THAT TIME. SIMILARLY, USG HAS NOW DETERMINED, BASED UPON OUR PRESENT ASSESSMENT OF THAT SITUATION, THAT EPS COVERAGE NO LONGER REQUIRED AT THIS TIME.

3. SYRIANS SHOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT SYRIAN UN MISSION WAS NOT RPT NOT SINGLED OUT IN OUR DECISION. PRIOR TO JUNE 1, EPS PERSONNEL WERE DEPLOYED IN PROTECTION OF SEVERAL UN MISSIONS LOCATED ON UPPER FLOORS OF HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS, WHERE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DO NOT PATROL. SPECIAL EPS COVERAGE WAS ALSO WITHDRAWN FROM THESE MISSIONS (ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE PLO) AS OF COB 31 MAY.

4. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD INFORM SYRIANS THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICE AND NYPD EXPERTS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED TO OFFER TECHNICAL ADVICE ON WAYS OF ASSURING MAXIMUM PROTECTION OF THEIR OFFICE AND FASTEST REACTION TIME OF NEW YORK POLICE.

5. FOR USUN: IN ADDITION TO CONVEYING ABOVE TO SYRIAN MISSION, YOU SHOULD OFFER TO ASSIST JORDANIAN MISSION AND ARAB LEAGUE AND PLO UN OFFICES ALONG THE LINES OF PARAGRAPH 4. WE UNDERSTAND ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED, AND THAT THEIR MISSION'S SECURITY IS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND EFFECTIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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